

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5825

UNCLAS LA PAZ 1485

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID IBRD BL

SUBJ: VISIT OF SENIOR IBRD OFFICIAL TO BOLIVIA

1. DAVID KNOX, SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE WORLD BANK, WAS RECENTLY IN LA PAZ ACCOMPANYING A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE. I LEARNED OF MR. KNOX'S PRESENCE WITHIN HOURS OF HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE AND THUS HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH HIM ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOB.

2. GENERAL LECHIN, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION TOLD ME THAT HE HAD MADE A STRONG REQUEST TO KNOW THAT THE BANK NOT ADOPT A POLICY OF PUSHING BOLIVIA INTO THE HARDER LENDING TERMS OF THE IBRD AWAY FROM IDA. LECHIN WRYLY COMMENTED THAT HE HAD SEEN INFORMATION THAT INDIA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST RECIPIENTS OF IDA FUNDS AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT IS USING ITS OWN RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR BOMB.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT STATE/AID SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH KNOX HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GOB AND ANY CONCLUSIONS REACHED WITH REGARD TO BANK POLICIES AND LOANS. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE IT IF POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE WERE STATE/AID TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE VISIT OF SENIOR IBRD OFFICIALS TO LA PAZ.
STEDMAN

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